

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01486 060750Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 SSC-01 SS-15 /027 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6481

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FOR AMBASSADOR NORLAND

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, US, LT

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR NORLAND - PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: STATE 288757

1. REGRET WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN PROMPT RESPONSE FROM GOL REGARDING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTING AAI CONFERENCE AND PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CONFERENCE SESSIONS TOTALLY ABSORBED ATTENTION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL INCLUDING PROTOCOL FOR PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS.

2. I BELIEVE ITS SENTIMENT WILL BE FAVORABLE TO IDEA OF EARLY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED WITH THE PALACE, BUT WE FEEL THAT MORE IMPORTANCE WILL BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DURATION OF YOUR STAY THAN TO THE SEQUENCE OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO BLS GOVTS. WHEN I DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MASHOLOGU, PERM SEC FONAFF, HE DOWN-PLAYED IMPORTANCE OF CEREMONY, EMPHASIZING GOL EFFORTS TO SIMPLIFY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. I BELIEVE THAT THE GESTURE OF PRESENTING CREDENTIALS HERE FIRST WOULD HAVE TO BE COUPLED WITH A STAY OF SOME DURATION - AT LEAST A WEEK AND LONGER, IF POSSIBLE - IN ORDER TO MAKE ANY IMPACT. IF YOU CAN STAY FOR ONLY TWO OR THREE DAYS, I BELIEVE THE GESTURE OF FIRST PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS HERE WILL BE TOTALLY EFFACED BY THE BREVITY OF YOUR VISIT. I NEEDN'T TELL YOU THAT THERE IS A LOT OF SENSITIVITY HERE ABOUT HAVING A NON-RESIDENT US AMBASSADOR (THE FONMIN AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE WITH MR.

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PAGE 02 MASERU 01486 060750Z

SCHAUFLE DURING THE AAI CONFERENCE). SOME OF THIS SENSITIVITY

MAY BE OFFSET IN FUTURE BY VISITS OF LONGER DURATION AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE. WHILE I FULLY RECOGNIZE ALL THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN SUCH A SCHEDULE, I BELIEVE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, YOUR FIRST VISIT SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT DURATION BEYOND PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS O PERMIT YOU TO MAKE CALLS, HOST AT LEAST ONE MAJOR REPRESENTATION FUNCTION, AND TRAVEL TO ROMA (UNIVERSITY SITE) AND IF POSSIBLE MAKE A TRIP TO THE PM'S HOME COUNTRY IN THE NORTH. THIS WOULD INDICATE MORE THAN JUST A SUPERFICIAL OR PASSING INTEREST.

3. WITH ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS NOW OUT OF TOWN, I WILL TRY EARLY THIS WEEK (DEC 6/7) TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER WITH MASHOLOGU GAIN TO SEE WHETHER FIRST PRESENTATION OR EARLY PRESENTATION (SECOND) OF CREDENTIALS WILL BE POSSIBLE. EXTENDED ABSENCE OF KING MOSHOESHOE (IN BRITIAN) AND HIS IMPENDING RETURN (DATE UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY) FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS IS UNCERTAIN FACTOR WITH REGARD TO PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
STOKES

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